

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 and 20-21 are pending and stand rejected.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-17 and 20-21 and respectfully request reconsideration.

DRAWING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

No indication of the status of the drawings is provided in item 10 of the Office Action Summary. The Examiner is again asked to acknowledge the acceptability of the Drawings (FIGS. 1-2, 3A-3B, 4A-4D, 5, 6A-6D, 7-9, 10A-10D, 11-12, 13A-13C and 14-17) in the next Office Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

On pages 2-5 of the Office Action, item 3, claims 1-17 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowe (US Patent No. 5,479,190) in view of Siddiqui (US Patent No. 5,912,661).

Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully requests reconsideration.

Rowe Reference

The Examiner contends, in the Office Action at page 2, line 22 to page 3, line 1, that Rowe teaches how each of the rotating bodies have an interior thereof with raised portions and recessed portions with the wheel having projections (see figure 13, 14 at 154, 160)."

However, Rowe does not discuss anything related to "each of the rotating bodies having an interior thereof with raised portions and recessed portions and the wheel having projections" (as recited in claim 1). This is because, for example, Rowe merely discloses that "grooved segments 154 are slidably mounted on the band 152 and may be moved along the entire course of the band 152 ... Grooved segments 154 also may be rotated on the band 152" (see Rowe at column 8, lines 58-63). Furthermore, "[p]ickup roller 160 is intermeshed with segments 154 which are adjacent to it." The grooved segments 154 and the pickup roller 160, alleged by the Examiner to correspond to the rotating bodies and the wheel, respectively, of the present

invention, do not have an interior with raised portions and recessed portions. That is, Rowe does not disclose raised portions and recessed portions which are interior to (i.e. inside) each of the rotating bodies.

Siddiqui Reference

Siddiqui discloses "a computer input device with a ... wheel button type z-encoder mechanism. The wheel button is supported on an axle or spindle within the housing of the input device. The axle is supported in the housing by spaced-apart axle supports." (See Siddiqui at column 2, lines 3-8.) However, Siddiqui, does not disclose "a plurality of rotating bodies" (see claim 1) and, in particular, Siddiqui does not suggest anything related to structures of the rotating bodies (i.e., the raised portions and recessed portions).

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art for the above-mentioned reasons and should be allowable.

Claims 2 and 11-12, which include an identical recitation to that of claim 1, are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

Claims 3-10, 13-17 and 20-21, which depend from claims 1 and 11, are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 11, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW CONDUCTED ON JULY 8, 2003 BETWEEN THE EXAMINER AND APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE

In the interview Applicant's Representative requested clarification of the rejection of claims 1, 11 and 12 with regard to the recitation in these claims of "tactily communicate."

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that affect is respectfully solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9/10/03

By: Eric Berkowitz
Eric Berkowitz
Registration No. 44,030

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 434-1500